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N·MEDICAL SOCIETY OF L

# OBSERVATIONS
ON A
NEW and EASY METHOD
OF
*CURING DISORDERS,*
BY
# FACTITIOUS AIR,
WITHOUT THE
USE of DRUGS.
ALSO,
*An* ENQUIRY *into the* MEDICAL PROPERTIES
OF
*Poſitive* and *Negative Electricity.*

By LOFTUS WOOD, *M. D.*

Medicines are ſometimes improper for them who are ſick, and always pernicious to thoſe who are well.

*Medicamentum non ſemper Ægris prodeſt,*
*Nocet ſemper ſanis.* CELSUS.

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TO THE

PRESIDENT AND FELLOWS

OF THE

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

*FOR their laudable and unwearied attention in promoting and encouraging a further knowledge and progreſs in the Science of Medicine; and for the honour I have received in being admitted a Member, and appointed Secretary to that Society, as a ſmall token of my gratitude theſe obſervations are moſt reſpectfully addreſſed, by*

*Their moſt obedient*

*Very humble Servant,*

*LOFTUS WOOD.*

*George - Street,*
*Hanover-Square,*
*Feb. 1, 1780.*

# PREFACE.

THE following Eſſay is calculated with a view to promote further inquiries into the nature and medical properties of the different kinds of air and electricity.

Fixed air is firſt treated of, being more frequently uſed and better underſtood than any of the others: I have mentioned ſome caſes wherein it has been uſed as an internal medicine with the greateſt ſucceſs.

Next, the antiſeptic qualities of nitrous and inflammable air are taken notice of; after which the powerful effects of fixed and other ſorts of factitious air topically applied are examined, the uſe of baths recommended, and portable ones propoſed.

Laſtly, ſome ſtrictures on the preſent mode of uſing electricity in the cure of diſorders, attempting to prove, that drawing of ſparks or giving ſhocks to the patient are not the moſt effectual methods for removing obſtructions; theſe obſervations end with a new theory on the uſe of negative electricity, in the cure of acute and inflammatory diſorders; being ſome apology for uſhering this little performance into the world of letters.

The whole intended for the reading of thoſe not acquainted with medicine, as well as the faculty, for which reaſon, all technical terms of the art, are left out, and the language made as plain and ſimple as the ſubject would admit.

The few caſes mentioned in this performance are authenticated by authors of undoubted veracity; but even although every word may be literally true, its being an innovation upon the old beaten paths of phyſic will no doubt create it oponents; and it will be turned into ridicule by many who underſtand nothing about the matter; beſides thoſe who may be directed by ſelf-intereſted motives; to thoſe it may be obſerved, that the greateſt Philoſophers in *Europe* make this particular part of medicine a favourite ſtudy, great things have been performed by it, and many more are expected to be done.

The incredulous ought to remember how much the preſent ſalutary mode of treating the ſmall pox, acute and putrid diſorders, was at firſt rejected; when, at preſent, if a phyſician would treat theſe diſorders in the ſame method as they had been formerly, he would not merit that name.

Thoſe who think that the number of medicines uſed in the ſhops, are ſufficient for the cure of all diſorders, ought to conſider that a confirmed gout, dropſy or conſumption are yet without their antidotes.

The great number of patients, afflicted with various diſorders, that naturally come under my care, being one of the phyſicians to the Surrey and Miſericordia Diſpenſaries, hath given me an opportunity of confirming many of the following obſervations; I am at preſent collecting a proper apparatus, in order to carry theſe reſearches ſtill further; the reſult of which I hope in time to preſent to the public.

## ON

# *FIXED AIR.*

THIS addition to the Materia Medica has engaged the ſcrutiny of every Philoſopher in Europe; for its effects as a chymical emanation, has excited their wonder, whilſt its powerful, though mild attacks upon the human body, in removing a variety of diſorders, have ſet it high in the ſcale of Medical Arcana. There is no doubt but fixed Air is a conſtituent principle in the human body; it is generated in the ſtomach by fermentation, efferveſcence, &c. and being abſorbed by the fluids

fluids of it, is carried into the circulation, and becomes a means of uniting the ſolids, and giving firmneſs and conſiſtency to the fleſh. A mixture of animal and vegetable food by the heat of the ſtomach, produces this Air, and ſupplies that perpetual waſte of it which is produced by breathing, perſpiration, putrid diſorders, and ſuch like cauſes: Hence, at ſea, in hoſpitals, priſons, cloſe habitations, church-yards, &c. by eating food tending to putrefaction, or breathing bad air, the body has an almoſt irreſiſtable tendency to putrid diſorders, and to which this air is found to be the moſt powerful of all antidotes.

Many able Phyſicians have given it internally, with a ſucceſs that never attended any other infant medicine: They have given the ſaline draught in a new mode, having made the ſtomach the recipient of its fixed Air: The effectual part of its medical uſe was loſt before this method was practiſed, for the efferveſcence of the acid and alkaline parts of the medicine was ſuffered to diſcharge the fixed Air, before it was taken into the ſtomach, ſo that a neutral ſalt of difficult digeſtion, was received, whoſe only uſe could be, that the heat of the ſtomach would produce a reſiduary efferveſcence.

The following are a few of the numerous caſes, in which fixed Air was employed as an internal medicine:

Dr. *Dobſon*, of Liverpool, relates a caſe of *Ann Forbes*, who was extremely ill of the ſmall-pox, of the confluent kind, the weather being exceeding hot; ſhe was treated in the common antiphlogiſtic method with ſo little ſucceſs, that ſhe became intolerably offenſive, and had every ſymptom of a ſpeedy diſſolution: The Salt of Tartar with the juice of lemon was given in the ſtate of effervescence every hour; in the ſpace of one day the putrid ſtench was diminiſhed, and ſhe perfectly recovered in a ſhort time.

Prince *Gallitzin* ordered this medicine for a woman of Breda, in Dutch Brabant, having a moſt dangerous putrid fever, who on the ninth day was entirely covered with ſpots of a red and livid colour, and nearly in the laſt ſtage of general putrefaction; ſhe had cold ſweats, and convulſions of the extremities: The bark, and other antiſeptic medicines were given without any ſucceſs. The *fixed Air* was then adminiſtered in a decoction of the Peruvian Bark. In the ſpace of three days, the bad ſymptoms were abated, and a perfect recovery was the effect of this new mode of treatment.

Dr. *Haygarth*, of Cheſter, a judicious obſerver of nature, gives us the hiſtory of a young boy having been attacked by an ulcerous ſore throat, and ſcarlet fever; his blood was in a diſſolved ſtate, and he was dropſical to a very great degree, he had great difficulty in breathing, was frequently rouſed from ſleep, with a ſenſe of immediate ſuffocation; bliſters, emetics, purgatives, diuretics, frictions, and ſuch like medicines were uſed without any good effect: *Fixed Air* was at length ordered, after which he perfectly recovered in the ſpace of a week.

Dr. *Percival*, of Mancheſter, mentions, having uſed *fixed Air* in a great many caſes of conſumptions of the lungs, that the hectic fever was generally abated, and the expectorated matter became leſs offenſive, but did not perform a perfect cure.

Dr. *Hulme* gives an account of many ſcorbutic caſes cured by this remedy, ſimilar to the following, related by Dr. *Dobſon*. A young lady in a confirmed ſcurvy, having purple ſpots on her legs and arms, cramps, pains of the limbs, ſmall pulſe, oppreſſions of the breaſt, debility, fœtid breath, ſoft and ſpungy gums, frequently bleeding; was perfectly recovered in the ſpace of three weeks, by uſing fixed Air and eating ripe fruit. The ſame Author relates the caſe of an unmarried lady, about fifty years of age, in a bad habit of body, having the jaundice for five weeks to a very violent degree: The common remedies generally employed for this diſorder, were uſed for a conſiderable time, without affording any relief; ſhe was then ordered *fixed Air* three times a day; by degrees her diſorder left her, and ſhe perfectly recovered: In two years after, ſhe relapſed, but was cured again by the ſame medicine.

*Riverius* and *Boerhaave* recommended fixed Air as a ſovereign remedy in ſickneſs and vomitings in fevers.

This medicine has been often employed as a diſſolvent for the ſtone. In the fifty-ſeventh volume of the Philoſophical Tranſactions, the Hon. *Henry Cavendiſh* mentions the great power of fixed Air in diſſolving calcarious earths: This fact has been proved by the experiments of ſeveral

veral accurate obſervers; among whom are the gentlemen already mentioned.

We have accounts of variety of caſes of the gravel, being perfectly cured by this medicine, even after the kidneys and urinary paſſages have been in a ſtate of ulceration. Dr. *Hulme* gives the following of a patient who had a ſtone of a conſiderable ſize, in the bladder, which was very nearly diſſolved by the uſe of *fixed Air*, and if the patient had not died of another diſorder, he thinks he would have expelled the whole of the calculous matter; for upon opening the bladder, the ſtone was found in a broken and friable ſtate; the largeſt fragment not being too great to paſs through the urethra.

Although this medicine has often been known to fail in caſes of the ſtone, eſpecially if the diſorder had been of long continuance. Yet if we conſider that the ſtones which are formed in the human body, are as various in their nature and compoſition, as thoſe found upon the ſea ſhore, we can hardly expect to find a univerſal diſſolvent; but this ought not to prevent our trying a mild and ſafe medicine, which in many caſes of this kind, has been of real ſervice. The operation of cutting for the ſtone is a painful and dangerous remedy, generally proving fatal to one third of all thoſe who undergo that cruel mode of treatment: This alone is a ſufficient cauſe to make us try every probable method, that would not injure the conſtitution, nor increaſe the diſeaſe; for if the Phyſician ſucceeds but once in ten times, and cures the patient, his labour is well rewarded.

I muſt acknowledge, that I have often tried this medicine without being able to perform a radical cure, eſpecially if the ſtone was large and had acquired a certain degree of hardneſs; nevertheleſs, I generally mitigated the painful ſymptoms; and perhaps, if this method had been long enough continued, more ſalutary effects might have been produced, but, my patients generally became tired, and rather choſe to ſubmit themſelves to the hands of the ſurgeon, than be kept longer in ſuſpence of an eaſy method of cure.

I have made uſe of this medicine in many caſes of the gravel, and almoſt always performed a cure, or at leaſt relieved the patient from the bad ſymptoms, for a conſiderable time. This method muſt be continued a conſiderable

ſiderable time, obſerving, not to let the patient be coſtive, and ordering him a decoction of linſeed, or marſh-mallows root, and if the diſorder be attended with heat and inflammation, a few grains of purified nitre ought to be taken three or four times a day, enjoining the patient to a ſtrict and cooling regimen.

Putrefaction, effervescence of acids and alkalis, ſolutions of various kinds of metals, acids and calcarious earth, &c. produce fixed air, very different in its nature and medical properties. The Phyſician ought to be well acquainted with the manner of producing this air, its qualities, and the caſes in which it would be moſt uſeful; otherwiſe he muſt not expect to be ſucceſsful: It is more than probable, that an inattention to the nature of this medicine, is one great cauſe why it is not more univerſally made uſe of. I would recommend a careful peruſal of the books publiſhed on that ſubject by Drs. *Prieſtley*, Mc. *Bride*, *Percival*, *Dobſon*, *Ingenhouſz*, &c.

Nitrous Air is produced from iron, copper, braſs, and ſome other metals, by ſolution, in the nitrous acid; alſo, from gold, or regulus of antimony, diſſolved in aquæ regia: This air is different, according to the metals from which it was produced, it is miſcible in water, and gives it an aſtringent taſte; its antiſeptic properties are very great, it has not been ſo often uſed in medicine as fixed Air; perhaps from the difficulty of getting it eaſily conveyed into the ſtomach, for it is with difficulty mixed with water, requiring a conſiderable time in agitating, before it will be all abſorbed.

The preparations of ſteel, copper, antimony, &c. are medicines of great efficacy; no preparation of theſe metals can be more pure and homogenious than that which is reduced to air, and if I may uſe the expreſſion of *Celſus*, it is the *gas vitæ* or very quinteſcence of the medicine.

Although copper is a dangerous metal to be taken internally, yet certain quantities of the air derived from it, may be given with great ſafety; we know that the moſt ſubtle and corroſive poiſons are daily uſed, as powerful medicines, therefore we ought not to be afraid to try a remedy which is ſafe from the manner of its being prepared. Dr. *Prieſtley* claſſing nitrous air among the powerful antiſeptics, encouraged me to try it in putrid caſes, which anſwered my moſt ſanguine expectations; I gave water ſaturated with this air to the patient, firſt in very ſmall quantities, and encreaſed the doſe as I found the ſtomach would bear it; I alſo made uſe of it as a corroborant and aſtringent medicine, with good ſucceſs, this air I took from a ſolution of iron in the nitrous acid; but I have not had ſufficient time to make experiments in order to aſcertain all the effects of this medicine.

Inflammable air has been ſuppoſed to poſſeſs medical properties ſimilar to the former, but the great difficulty of mixing it with water, the taſte of which did not ſeem altered after it had been abſorbed, prevented me from uſing it.

Air is ſaid to be unfit for reſpiration, when it is ſaturated with a redundant quantity of phlogiſton, for which reaſon inflammable, mephetic, fixed air, &c. are noxious, in a certain degree, when taken into the lungs: Nitrous air, or the flame of a candle introduced into this phlogiſticated air, are creterions by which we judge of its purity or impurity, theſe methods the reader will find fully explained by the Authors already mentioned; the narrow limits of this performance will not permit me to enter largely into an inveſtigation or chemical analization of the properties of air in general; I ſhall only confine myſelf to the medical part of this enquiry, in hopes of perſuading the faculty that this ſubject is worthy of their further conſiderations.

In reſpiration, the air not only expands the lungs that the circulation may be properly carried on, but ſupplies the blood with heat, and carries off its ſuperabundant phlogiſton, as is lately explained by the ingenius Dr. *Crawford*, in his enquiries on *animal heat.*

An animal confined in a ſmall cloſe place ſoon expires by often breathing the ſame air, which becomes ſaturated with ſuch a quantity of phlogiſton, as to be unfit for reſpiration; therefore pure air is eſſential to life.

The peripneumonia and phthiſis pulmonalis, generally commence with an inflammation of the lungs: Quickneſs of breathing, heat, and a foulneſs of the breath, are concomitant ſymptoms of this ſtage of the diſorder, which are efforts of nature to expel the morbific matter, or redundant quantity of phlogiſton, which is predominant in ſuch inflammatory caſes: If this noxious effluvia be not ſpeedily carried off; the lungs become in a putrid and ulcerated ſtate, and a fatal conſumption in a ſhort time cloſes the ſcene.

A conſumption of the lungs has been looked on, hitherto, as an incurable diſorder, no internal medicine being found efficatious enough to ſtop the progreſs of the diſeaſe. Fixed air, that powerful antiſeptic ſo uſeful when taken into the ſtomach, becomes fatal when received in a large quantity into the lungs. A medicine is therefore to be ſought that may be grateful to the lungs, whilſt its antiſeptic properties are ſufficient to expel the morbific cauſe of the diſorder: This valuable medicine is not to be found in the chymicals or galenicals of the ſhops, but you will find it deſcribed in the works of that learned philoſopher Dr. *Prieſtley*, under the denomination of *dephlogiſticated air*, which may be called the univerſal panacea for diſorders of this kind; but as things are obtained with difficulty in proportion to their value, unfortunately for mankind *dephlogiſticated air* cannot be eaſily produced in ſuch large quantities as medical purpoſes would require.

A variety of experiments have been made by philoſophers to overcome this difficulty, altho' Dr. *Prieſtley* has been able to produce this air from a number of different ſubſtances, yet in too inconſiderable a quantity for the patient to breath in. Dr. *Ingenhouſz*, in a curious book lately publiſhed, ſhews a new mode of obtaining this air from the green leaves and branches of trees and plants, what is very ſingular, this air cannot be produced without the leaves are expoſed to the light, on the contrary, an air of a noxious quality is generated from them in a dark place.

I have obtained ſo much of this air as to prove its powerful effects in diſorders of the lungs, and by a method of filtering and in ſome meaſure dephlogiſticating the common air of the atmoſphere, making it paſs through certain calcarious ſubſtances, which abſorbs a conſiderable quantity of its phlogiſton; in ſome meaſure make a ſubſtitute for dephlogiſticated air.

The purity of this air is determined by its degree of diminution when mixed with nitrous air, by the vivid rapidity with which a lighted torch burns in it, &c.

Dephlogiſticated air is generally found to be five times more pure than common air, conſequently an animal incloſed in a certain quantity of it will live five times as long as it could do in the ſame quantity of common air of the atmoſphere.

Common air paſſed through lime water in ſome meaſure becomes more pure.

I have mentioned a ſufficient number of the properties of this fluid, to prove its great efficacy in medicine, and hope the learned will continue to employ their thoughts on ſo intereſting a ſubject.

I have not had an opportunity to uſe this medicine long enough, to preſent the public with a ſufficient number of obſervations to fully eſtabliſh its utility.

I now come to a new and very intereſting part of my eſſay; to ſhew that theſe different kinds of factitious air, have been uſefully employed as external applications, for this moſt valuable diſcovery, the world is indebted to the ingenious Mr. *Walker*, Lecturer on Natural Philoſophy; a very ſucceſsful experiment that he made, may be ſeen in Dr. *Prieſtley*'s fourth volume on the Nature and Properties of air.

The caſe alluded to, was a great tumour and violent inflammation in a Lady's breaſt, which had proved refractory to the efforts of a number of judicious men of the faculty; which diſorder Mr. *Walker* perfectly cured in a few days, by a topical application of fixed air.

I had an opportunity of being particularly informed of this caſe from the Lady herſelf, which perfectly convinced me of the efficacy of the medicine.

Another very extraordinary cure was performed by the ſame gentleman; a young woman in *Richmond*, having cut her hand very deeply with a glaſs bottle, ſome of the fragments by neglect had remained in the part for a conſiderable time; after the wound had cloſed, a violent inflammation took place, the part was laid open by a ſurgeon, and the fragments of the glaſs were extracted, an exfoliation of the bone, that was underneath this wound, was the conſequence; various methods were uſed to abate the imflammation and heal up the

part,

part, which would ſometimes cicatrice, but break out again with greater violence.

Mr. *Walker* being at that time in *Richmond*, he topically applied the fixed air, and continuing that method for about three weeks, ſhe was perfectly cured; I had the curioſity to viſit her myſelf, ſhe informed me that the diſorder had been above five years ſtanding, and that ſhe had entirely loſt the uſe of her hand during the laſt three years; when I laſt ſaw her the wound was perfectly healed, and the inflammation quite diſappeared; ſhe recovered every uſe of her hand, and had not the leaſt pain.

Elated with the diſcovery of ſo powerful a medicine, I applied it to a number of putrid and inflammatory caſes, that had reſiſted the common modes of treatment, in ſome of which I ſucceeded beyond my moſt ſanguine expectation; in others, I ſometimes failed of giving any relief, but never found it to produce an aggravation of the diſorder, or any bad ſymptoms; the nitrous and inflammable air being applied externally, ſeemed poſſeſſed of a powerful antiſeptic quality. I found it a very difficult matter to produce a ſufficient quantity of this air for medical purpoſes, as alſo getting it perfectly

pure,

pure in its kind, and confining it properly to the part affected, for although I was tolerably acquainted with all the general principles of natural philoſophy, I found great difficulty in performing the mechanical part, as it is not to be learned by books, but by experience under the inſpection of a good operator. The abſtract mathematician can eaſily calculate the complex motions of a curious clock, but the ingenious artiſt muſt compleat the work.

In this difficulty I had again recourſe for inſtructions to my friend Mr. *Walker*, who not only aſſiſted me in producing theſe various kinds of air, but alſo conſtructed a number of curious machines, for applying it to various parts of the body, in the moſt commodious and ſimple manner.

In the courſe of my practice, I had often occaſion to order my patients the uſe of the cold, hot, tipid, or vapour bath; the inconveniency and danger attending thoſe who ought to be confined to their chambers, going to different parts of the town to ſeek theſe baths, made me fall upon a method of conſtructing them in ſuch a manner as to be portable, and eaſily brought into any patient's chamber: Theſe I got made upon a ſmall and elegant plan, having ſuch powers as to exceed thoſe which were upon an hundred times a larger ſcale; therefore ſince nothing conduces more to the preſervation of health, than a proper uſe of baths, alſo, their being a powerful agent in removing many diſorders, makes me hope, this invention will be recognized by the public, and further recommended and improved by the faculty. By this method, the patient receives every benefit in his own room, that he could have elſewhere, without the trouble, danger, or expence that attend public baths.

Before I conclude this ſmall Tract, I ſhall offer a few remarks on the nature and medical uſes of electricity. A number of Philoſophers have made this a favourite ſtudy; and, the learned Dr. *Prieſtley*, has reduced it to a ſcience: Many ingenious men of the faculty have employed it for the cure of diſorders, with much ſucceſs; it greatly promotes inſenſible tranſpiration and glandular ſecretion, accelerates the circulation of the blood; it is uſefully employed in chronic diſorders, and all kinds of obſtructions; paralytic, rheumatic, hyſteric and nervous diſeaſes are often cured by electricity; we alſo hear of its good effects in intermitting fevers, rigidity of the muſcles or joints, diſorders of the eyes and ears, &c.

I am ſorry to find, that of late years, this medicine ſeems not to be held in ſuch univerſal eſteem as formerly. The hiſtory of Medical Electricity, furniſhes us with a number of well authenticated cures, performed by Phyſicians of the firſt rank and eminence; but of late, this part of the Materia Medica has degenerated, and principally fallen, in the hands of thoſe unacquainted with medicine; who, inſtead of inſulating the patient, and keeping him for a conſiderable time in a certain ſtate of electricity, they only, either draw a few ſparks from the part affected, or give a few gentle ſhocks.

Since the invention of the Leyden phial, the nature of poſitive and negative electricity is tolerably well underſtood; we know, if the inſide of the phial is poſitively charged; in order to diſcharge it ſuddenly, a communication of a conducting medium muſt be formed between the inſide and outſide of the phial; immediately an exploſion takes place, and a quantity of the electric matter paſſes from the inſide to the outſide of the phial, in order to reſtore the

equilibrium

equilibrium, and if a perſon forms a part of this communication, he will receive the electric ſhock.

If a number of conductors of the ſame kind, but of different lengths, form the communication, the electric matter will paſs through the ſhorteſt; but if any of the conductors are more perfect than the reſt, it will paſs through the moſt perfect, without regard to diſtance.

The fluids of the human body in general, are more perfect conductors than the ſolids; conſequently the electric matter would paſs through the veins and arteries in preference to the membranes, muſcles, or tendons; therefore, in the common mode of applying electricity, for the cure of rheumatic or paralytic complaints; a number of ſhocks are ſent through the part affected, in order to remove the obſtructions which are ſuppoſed to occaſion the diſorder: The courſe of theſe ſhocks, according to the laws of electricity, takes the ſhorteſt diſtance through the largeſt blood-veſſels, and for every ſhock, only one ſmall and ſimple perforation is made; it may be eaſily conceived, how inadequate a very conſiderable number of ſuch ſhocks muſt be, to remove an obſtruction. The only effectual method is to inſulate the patient, and keep the part poſitively electrified by a powerful machine, for a conſiderable time, and this to be repeated according to the exigency of the caſe; by this means the circumambient air and moiſture draws off this matter imperceptibly through the pores, and inſtead of a few of theſe ducts being only perforated by a ſingle ſhock, millions are laid open at the ſame time, by the moiſt air being in contract with the perſon who is in the poſitive ſtate of electricity.

The celebrated Dr. *De Haen*, who was firſt Phyſician at Vienna, uſed this mode of electricity with great ſucceſs, in the cure of many diſorders; in ſome caſes, he would keep the patient electrified for the ſpace of an hour at a time, and this repeated twice a day for a week,—a method rarely practiced by our modern electricians.

I have made uſe of poſitive electricity in a variety of caſes, with much advantage, but never ſucceeded ſo as to perform a laſting cure, except by *De Haen's* method. It is almoſt univerſally acknowledged, that inflammatory and acute diſorders, are increaſed by electricity: We know that all heating or ſtimulating medicines accelerate the pulſe, and increaſe the fever; and as poſitive electricity is in this claſs, it muſt be improper in ſuch caſes.

Paralytic and rheumatic complaints being often accompanied with acute or inflammatory diſeaſes, led me to conſider a mode, by which electricity might be uſefully employed in ſuch caſes; it was natural to conclude, that if throwing a certain quantity of electric matter into the human body, would heat, as well as accelerate the circulation of the blood; the extracting, or taking a certain quantity away from the human body, muſt produce a quite different effect.

In order to put this theory into practice, by the aſſiſtance of Mr. *Walker*, I conſtructed an electric machine, that electrified negatively, by forming a communication between the perſon to be ſo electrified and the rubber, which anſwered my expectations; by this means I could lower the pulſe in as great a degree as it could be raiſed by the poſitive method. I have uſed this ſtate of electricity in inflammatory rheumatiſms, acute and putrid fevers with much ſucceſs.

This method of negative electricity being ſo little known, and never before practiced for the cure of diſorders, is a ſufficient cauſe for my recommending it to the attention of the faculty.

Therefore a book of correſpondence is open'd, and the curious in Medical or Philoſophical matters, are intreated to become its Benefactors, by communicating their Obſervations on theſe Subjects:—A correſpondence, which no doubt may contribute exceedingly to the benefit of the Public, will be gratefully acknowledged, and ſhall be faithfully arranged in future Publications, by directing them to the Author, at the Philoſophical and Medical Lecture-Rooms, *George-Street*, *Hanover-Square*, LONDON.

FINIS.